AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following listing of claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (**Currently Amended**) A method for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data, the method comprising comprises:

selecting a data subset from a dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the dataset and including at least one non-numeric value; and

automatically determining at least one modal value based on the selected data subset; and

outputting the at least one modal value.

2.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting the data subset from the dataset comprises querying a database.

3.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 1, each value of the data subset comprising one of the following data types:

float;

integer;

currency;

date;

decimal; or

string.

4.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining at least one modal value based on the selected data subset comprises:

sorting the selected data subset by value;

processing the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, each modal group comprising one or more instances of a substantially identical value; and

determining at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups.

5.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 4 further comprising determining a modal count for each modal group, each modal count comprising ~~the~~ a number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group.

6.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 5, wherein determining at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups comprises:

determining a highest one or more modal counts;

selecting the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count; and

assigning each selected substantially identical value to one modal value.

7.   (**Currently Amended**) The method of Claim 5, <u>further comprising</u> ~~in response at least in part to each modal count being equal to one,~~ assigning a null value to one modal value <u>in response to each modal count being equal to one</u>.

8.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 4, one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

9.   (**Currently Amended**) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining at least one modal value based on the selected data subset comprises:

selecting one data object from the data subset;

comparing a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;

~~in response, at least in part, to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values,~~ adding one to the associated modal count <u>in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values</u>;

selecting ~~the~~ <u>a</u> highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

10.   **(Currently Amended)** <u>A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions</u> ~~Software~~ for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data<u>, the computer-executable instructions</u> operable <u>when executed</u> to:

select a data subset from a dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the dataset and including at least one non-numeric value; ~~and~~

automatically determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset<u>; and</u>

<u>output the at least one modal value</u>.

11.   **(Currently Amended)** The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 10, wherein ~~the software operable to select~~ <u>selecting</u> the data subset from the dataset comprises ~~software operable to query~~ <u>querying</u> a database.

12.   **(Currently Amended)** The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 10, each value of the data subset comprising one of the following data types:

float;

integer;

currency;

date;

decimal; or

string.

13.   (**Currently Amended**) The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 10, wherein the <u>computer-executable instructions are</u> ~~software~~ operable to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset <u>by</u> ~~comprises software operable to~~:

sorting ~~sort~~ the selected data subset by value;

processing ~~process~~ the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, each modal group comprising one or more instances of a substantially identical value; and

automatically <u>determining</u> ~~determine~~ at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups.

14.   (**Currently Amended**) The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 13<u>, the computer-executable instructions</u> further operable <u>when executed</u> to determine a modal count for each modal group, each modal count comprising ~~the~~ <u>a</u> number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group.

15.   (**Currently Amended**) The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 14, wherein the ~~software~~ <u>computer-executable instructions are further</u> operable <u>when executed</u> to determine at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups <u>by</u> ~~comprises software operable to~~:

determining ~~determine~~ a highest one or more modal counts;

selecting ~~select~~ the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count; and

assigning ~~assign~~ each selected substantially identical value to one modal value.

16.   (**Currently Amended**) The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 14, ~~in response at least in part to each modal count being equal to one,~~ <u>the computer-executable instructions</u> further operable <u>when executed</u> to assign a null value to one modal value <u>in response to each modal count being equal to one</u>.

17.   (Currently Amended) The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 13, one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

18.   (Currently Amended) The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 10, wherein the <u>computer-executable instructions are further</u> ~~software~~ operable <u>when executed</u> to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset <u>by</u> ~~comprises software operable to~~:

          <u>selecting</u> ~~select~~ one data object from the data subset;

          <u>comparing</u> ~~compare~~ a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;

          ~~in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values,~~ adding one to the associated modal count <u>in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values</u>;

          selecting ~~the~~ <u>a</u> highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

          assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

19.   (Currently Amended) <u>A system</u> ~~System~~ for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data<u>, the system comprising</u> ~~comprises~~:

          <u>a</u> memory operable to store a data set, the data set comprising a plurality of data objects and each data object comprising a data type and a value; and

          one or more processors operable to:

               select a data subset from the dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the plurality of data objects and including at least one non-numeric value; ~~and~~

               automatically determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset<u>; and</u>

               <u>output the at least one modal value</u>.

20.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 19, wherein the processors <u>are</u> operable to select the data subset from the dataset ~~comprise processors operable to query~~ <u>by querying</u> a database.

21.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 19, each data object comprising one of the following data types:

 float;

 integer;

 currency;

 date;

 decimal; or

 string.

22.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 19, wherein the processors <u>are</u> operable to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset ~~comprise processors operable to~~ <u>by</u>:

 <u>sorting</u> ~~sort~~ the selected data subset by value;

 <u>processing</u> ~~process~~ the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, each modal group comprising one or more instances of a substantially identical value; and

 automatically <u>determining</u> ~~determine~~ at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups.

23.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 22, the processors further operable to determine a modal count for each modal group, each modal count comprising ~~the~~ <u>a</u> number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group.

24.   **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 23, wherein the processors <u>are</u> operable to determine at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups <u>by</u> ~~comprise processors operable to~~:

determining ~~determine~~ a highest one or more modal counts;

selecting ~~select~~ the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count; and

assigning ~~assign~~ each selected substantially identical value to one modal value.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 23, ~~in response at least in part to each modal count being equal to one,~~ the processors further operable to assign a null value to one modal value in response to each modal count being equal to one.

26. **(Original)** The system of Claim 22, one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 19, wherein the processors are operable to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset by ~~comprise processors operable to~~:

selecting one data object from the data subset;

comparing a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;

~~in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values,~~ adding one to the associated modal count in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values;

selecting ~~the~~ a highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

28. **(Cancelled)**